



Senate Transportation Committee
Testimony on HB 4316
Lansing Michigan

June 14th, 2011

The Great lakes Timber Professionals Association would like to offer the following testimony in favor of HB4316. We are asking that HB 4316 be passed in order to create an exemption for brakes on slasher saw table units used in the production of pulp and saw timber.

Slasher units for forestry have been in use for more than 40 years throughout the United States and Canada. Since their inception and until recently, slashers saw table units have never been, nor were they required to be equipped with brakes. In that 40 year time frame to the best of our knowledge there have been zero accidents reported anywhere involving the slasher saw table units.

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) is a common calculation in determining the number of accidents between certain types of vehicles. With that in mind we submit the following points;

1. Since slasher and slasher saw table units remain on the timber sale jobsite for the duration of the sale, the number of VMT is typically no more than 500 miles annually which far less than the average vehicle.
2. It is also important to keep in mind the slasher itself and towing unit are fully equipped with brakes lights and all applicable safety equipment to meet DOT standards for highway use. The slasher saw table unit is also equipped with portable lights and a slow moving vehicle while being transported from site to site.

Based on past history and experience it can be concluded that requiring brakes on the slasher saw table unit will not enhance an already exemplary safety record, but will have an unnecessary negative financial impact on the forest products industry.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the GLTPA Board of Directors and members,

Henry Schienebeck
Executive Director
Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association.

P.O.BOX 1278 ~ RHINELANDER, WI 54501
PHONE: (715) 282-5828 ~ FAX: (715) 282-4941 ~ WEBSITE: timberpa.com